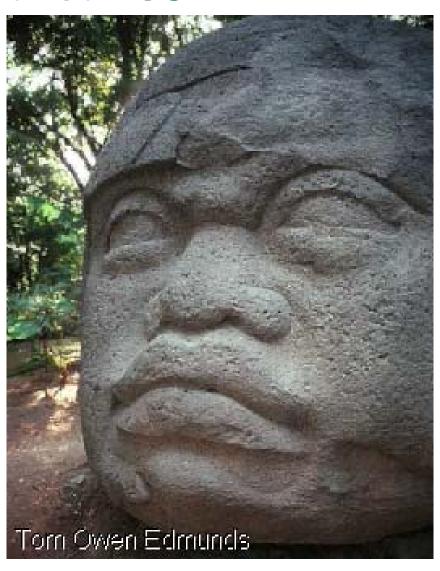
Humans in Latin America and Pre-Columbian Cultures



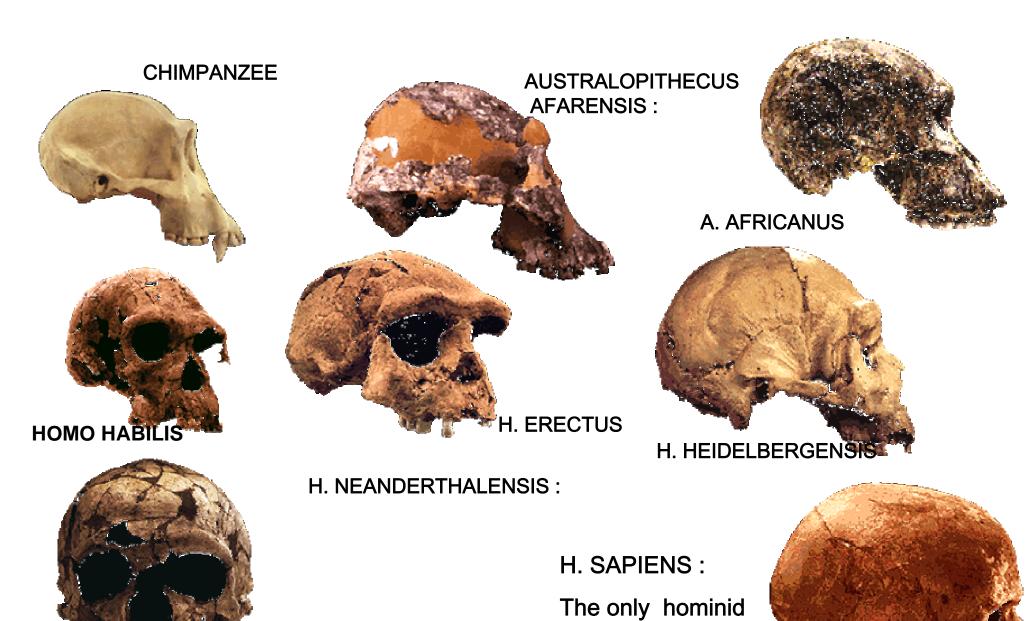
Early Americans

- No record of Hominids (other than humans) in the Americas
- No record of Neanderthals
- First indications of Human activity still debated: Cactus Hill (Virginia) 15,000 years ago Monte Verde, Chile 14,700 years, some earlier sites are also in debate.
- Extended Clovis culture at 13,500 years ago
- Siberian people crossing through Beringia is the preferred explanation, but many other routes are also proposed

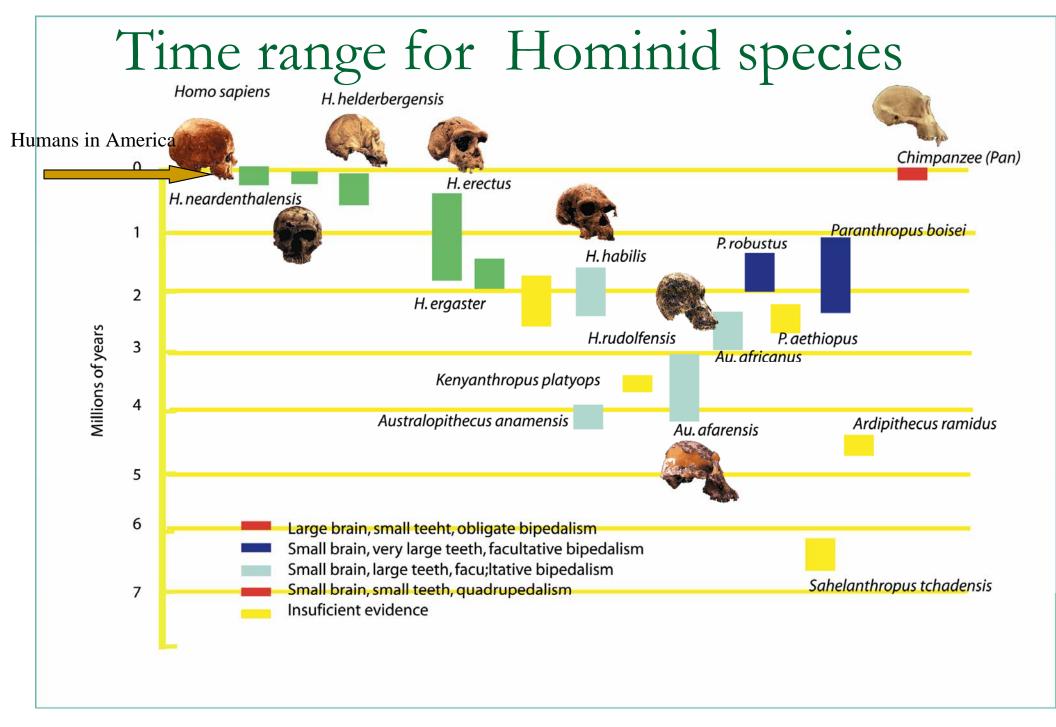


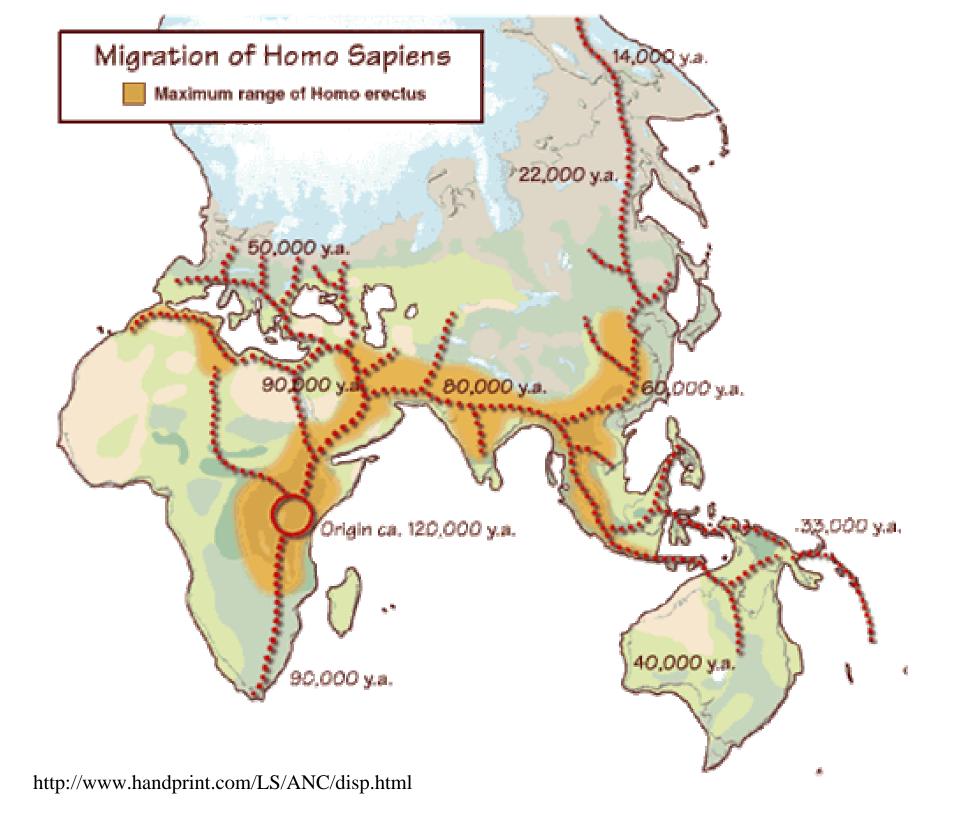


Ancestral Human Lines



in Latin America

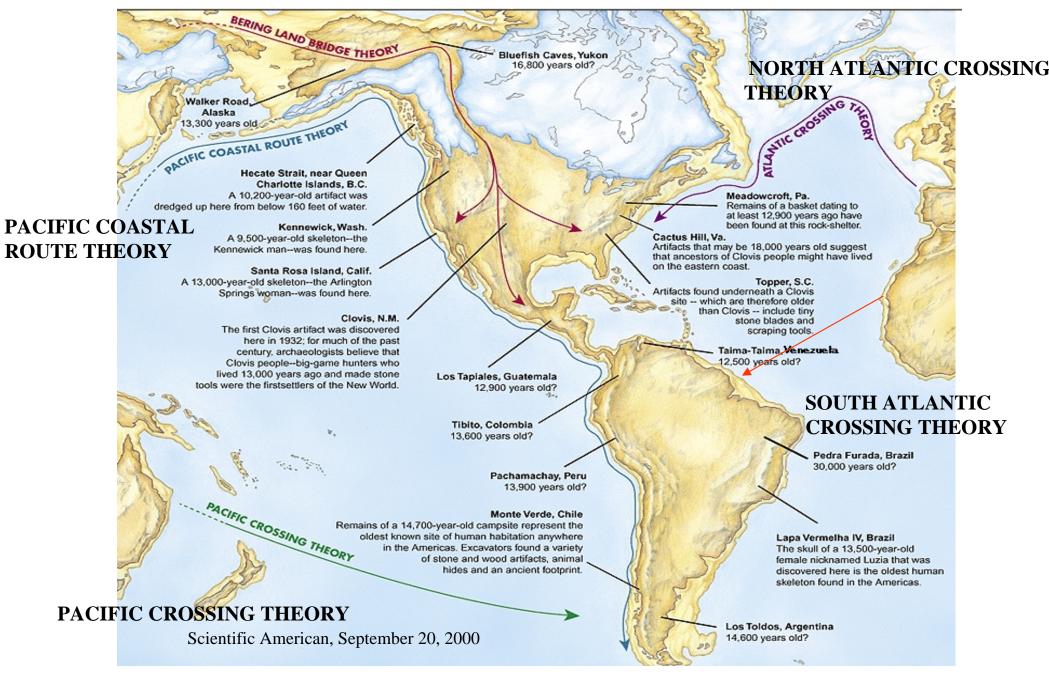




The First Human Invasion of the

Americas

BERING LAND BRIDGE THEORY



Preferred Migration Theories

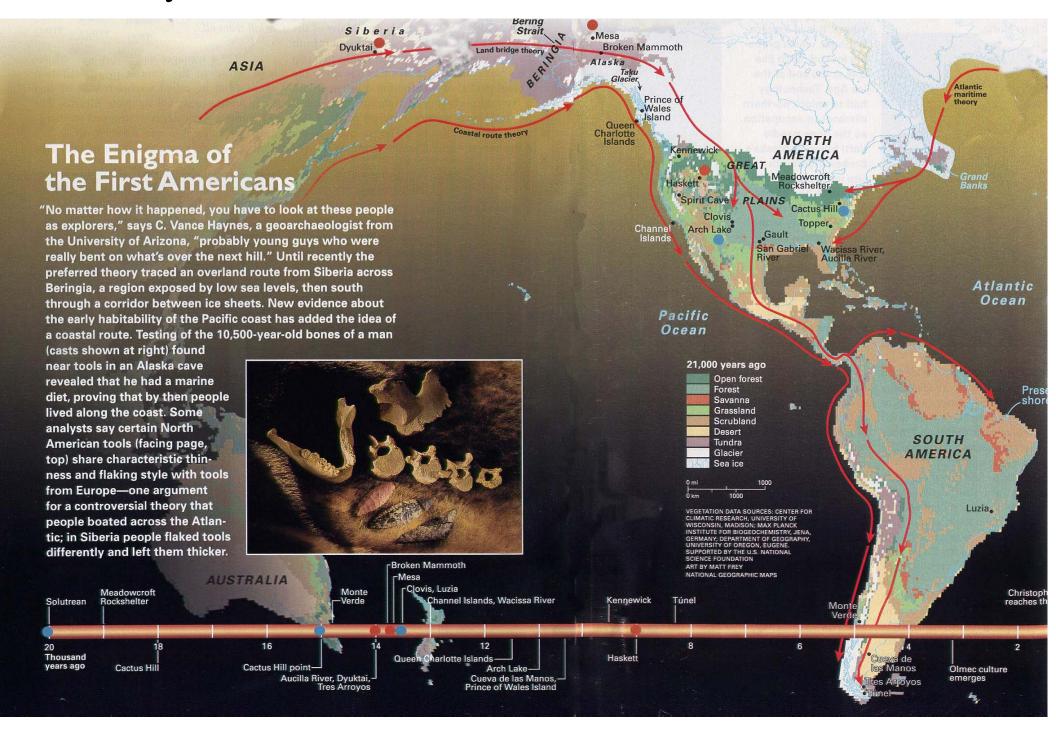
- Asia crossed the land bridge between Siberia and North America, which existed during the last Ice Age, when sea levels were much lower. The settlers moved into Canada through an ice-free corridor between the two glaciers that covered the northern half of the continent at the time. This route funneled them into the U.S.; they advanced quickly through Central and South America. For the past several decades this has been the prevailing theory of how people reached the New World.
- PACIFIC COASTAL ROUTE THEORY As an alternative to the Bering land bridge theory, many researchers have begun to consider the idea that explorers from southeastern Asia followed the coastline in small boats. Scientists believe this mode of travel could have enabled the early settlers to reach the tip of South America in as little as 100 years.



07/28/2003 Early Americans in the news!

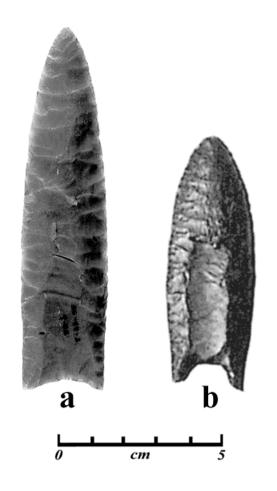
- From The New York Times
- Scientists studying the genetic signatures of Siberians and American Indians have found evidence that the first human migrations to the New World from Siberia probably occurred no earlier than 18,000 years ago. The new estimate undermines earlier estimates that colonization occurred as far back as 30,000 years ago, but reinforces archaeological findings and a linguistic theory that most American languages belong to a single family called Amerind.
- By studying the DNA of living Siberian and American Indian populations, geneticists had previously been able to see traces of at least two early migrations from Siberia. But it has been hard to put a date on when the first people set foot in the Americas, for lack of a suitable marker in the Y chromosome.

Early sites in the Americas



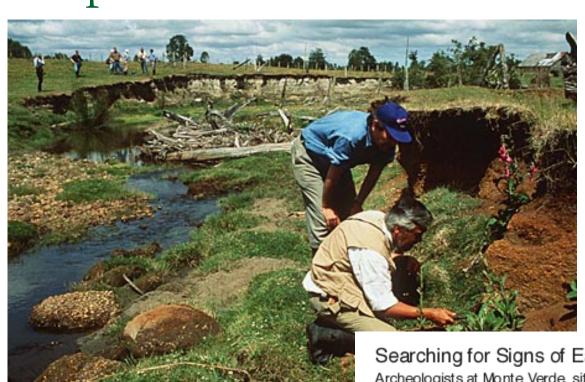
Clovis Technology

- Clovis: Clovis is the name given to a prehistoric cultural manifestation found widely across North America and dating to the waning three centuries of the last glacial interval (12,900-12,550 calendar years ago).
- Ice still covered most of what is now Canada and lowered sea level expanded the coastal margins, especially along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico shorelines.
- Clovis people fanned out over the years across a vast New World, establishing homes from Alaska to the tip of South America.
- Characteristics are large, fluted spear points a highly distinctive way of flaking large bifacial point which are often found in association with bones of mammoths.



Clovis (a) and Folsom (b) points from Blackwater Draw, New Mexico (after Boldurian and Cotter, 1999).]

Monte Verde: oldest accepted human occupation site in the Americas (Pre- Clovis)





14,700 years ago

Searching for Signs of Early Man

Archeologists at Monte Verde, site of the oldest human artifacts in the Americas, hope that a second site in the same area will offer even older remains.





Cueva de Las Manos, Argentina



Paintings of 10500 years old, animals represented on the walls are guanacos (a wild relative of the llama). Spray painted hands (Manos) are also seen in Australia and France.





Did Humans Hunt Large Mammals to Extinction in the Americas?

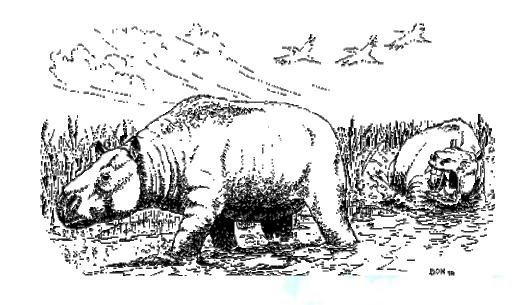
More than half of the large mammal species of the Americas disappeared in a extinction event about 10,000 years ago. Some of the mammals that became extinct are:

- woolly mammoths
- Columbian mammoths
- American mastodons
- three types of ground sloths
- glyptodonts (giant armadillos)
- American horses
- several species of oxen
- giant bison

Two schools of thought:

Yes

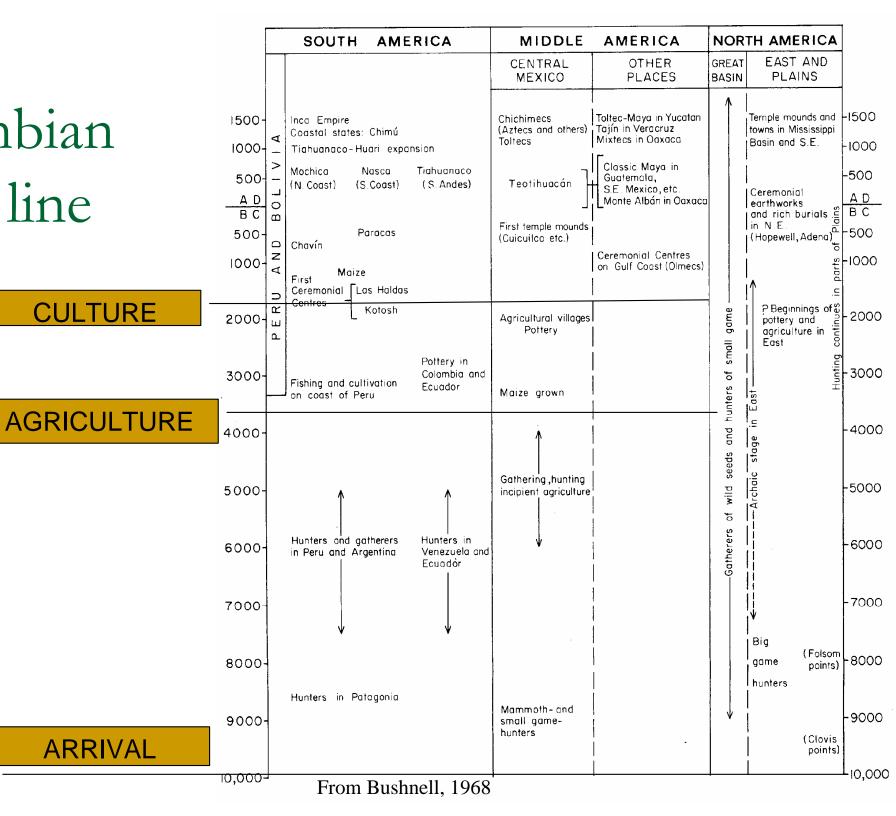
-no global climate change







Pre Columbian Time line



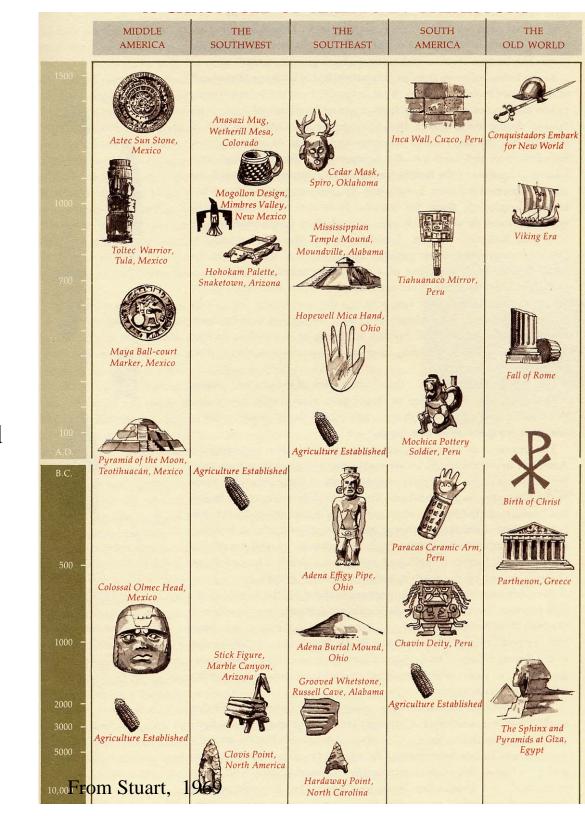
ARRIVAL

CULTURE

Pre Columbian

L.A. Facts

- •Economy was based on agriculture, with maize (corn) being the principal crop.
- •Metal tools were almost unknown. Copper gold, silver, and jade was used for ornamental purposes.
- •Wheels unknown
- •Mesoamericans (Mexicans and Central Americans) had no draft animals. They domesticated the dog and the turkey.
- •The Incas domesticated the llama and alpaca.
- •Fine pottery was made by all pre-Columbian cultures.
- •Spinning, dyeing, and weaving cotton and wool were highly perfected.



Pre-Colombian agriculture raised crops unknown in the Old World

Corn

Potatoes

Manioc

Pineapple

Cacao

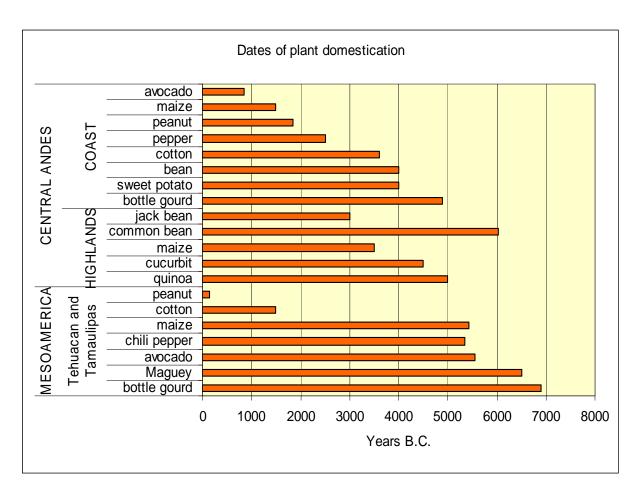
Avocados

Tobacco

Tomatoes

Peanuts

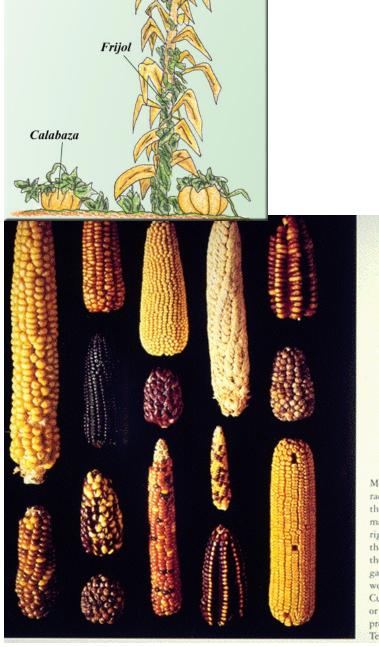
Quina (quinine)



Maize, main staple crop of Pre-Colombian America

Tlaloc, seen here with a maize plant and a pitcher of beans. (from Codex Magliabechiano facsimile, University of California Press 1903).





Maiz

Modern ears of corn differ widely from race to race in size, shape, and color, the result of thousands of years of human selection. The ear in the lower right corner is U.S. Corn Belt dent, the world's most productive corn. To the left of it is an ear of Cuzco Gigante, a Peruvian race with the world's largest kernels. Above the Cuzco ear is the tiny Lady Finger Pop or Argentine popcorn, thought to be a present-day relict of the early Tehuacán maize.



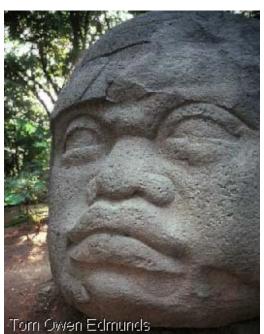
[After Preston E. James, Latin America, 3rd ed. (Odyssey Press, 1959), pp. 15, 16, by permission of the author and of the Bobbs Merrill Co.]

Pre-Columbian Civilizations

- Olmec 1200 BC to 800 BC
- Classic Maya Empire 200-900 AD
- Toltec- 800-1200 AD
- Aztec Empire 1200-1520AD
- Inca Empire (max. extent) 1200-1532 AD

Olmec civilization -1200 BC to 800 BC



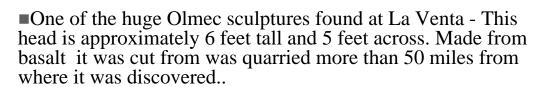


The oldest civilization in LA; often regarded as the Mother Culture of later Middle American civilizations.

Coastal lowlands of Mexico around the present-day city of Veracruz

Sculptures range from tiny jade figures to huge statues of human heads

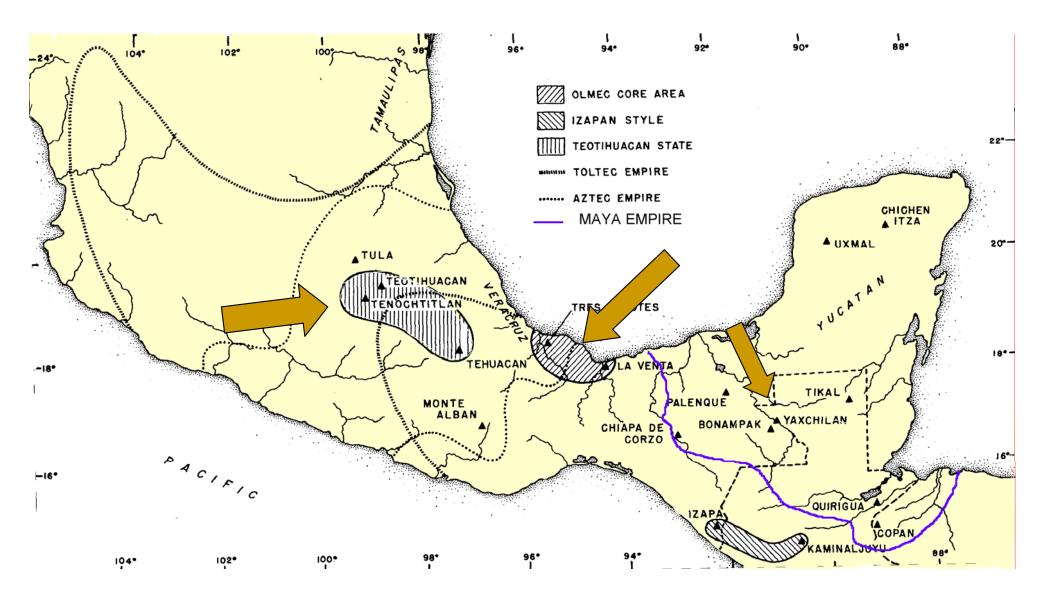
- The Olmec established trading posts as far away as the Valley of Mexico (Mexico City).
- The Olmec invented writing in the New World.





Jade and serpentine figures, National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico

Meso America Pre-Columbian Cultures



Mayan Civilization

(200 to 900 AD) Classic Period



■Temple of Kukulcan (the Maya name for Quetzalcoatl) Chichen Itza





- The Mayan territory included the Yucatán Peninsula in present-day Mexico and parts of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- Agriculture formed the basis of the Mayan economy maize being the principal crop
- Remarkable architecture, including Palenque, Uxmal, Mayapan, Copán, Tikal, Uaxactún, and Chichén Itzá. These sites were vast centers for religious ceremonies.
- Developed a method of hieroglyphic notation and recorded mythology, history, and rituals carved and painted on monumental remains. Records were also painted in hieroglyphs and preserved in books of folded sheets of paper made from the fibers of the maguey plant

Toltecs (800 -1200 AD)

The Toltecs ruled much of central Mexico from the tenth to twelfth centuries A.D. The Toltecs inherited much from Maya civilization. The most impressive Toltec ruins are at Chichen Itza in Yucatan, where a branch of Toltec culture survived beyond the civilization's fall in central Mexico.

- The Toltecs were Nahuatl-speaking people. Their name has many meanings: an "urbanite," a "cultured" person, and, literally, the "reed people," derived from their urban centre, Tollan ("Place of the Reeds"), about 50 miles (80 km) north of Mexico City.
- Beginning in the 12th century the invasion of nomads destroyed the Toltec hegemony in central Mexico. Among the invaders were the Aztec, or Mexica, who destroyed Tollan about the mid-12th century.





Aztec empire (1168-1524)

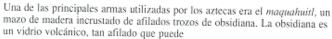


 Initially Aztecs hired themselves as mercenaries in wars between Toltecs. Aztec military had a equivalent to military service with a core of professional warriors

 The Aztecs extended their power over much of central Mexico, ruling as many as 5 million inhabitants.
 The population of Tenochtitlán the Aztec capital was roughly 300,000

Aztecs staple foods included maize, beans and squash. They also used maguey, cotton and cocoa.

Aztecs were notorious for their religious human sacrifice that they performed in great numbers.

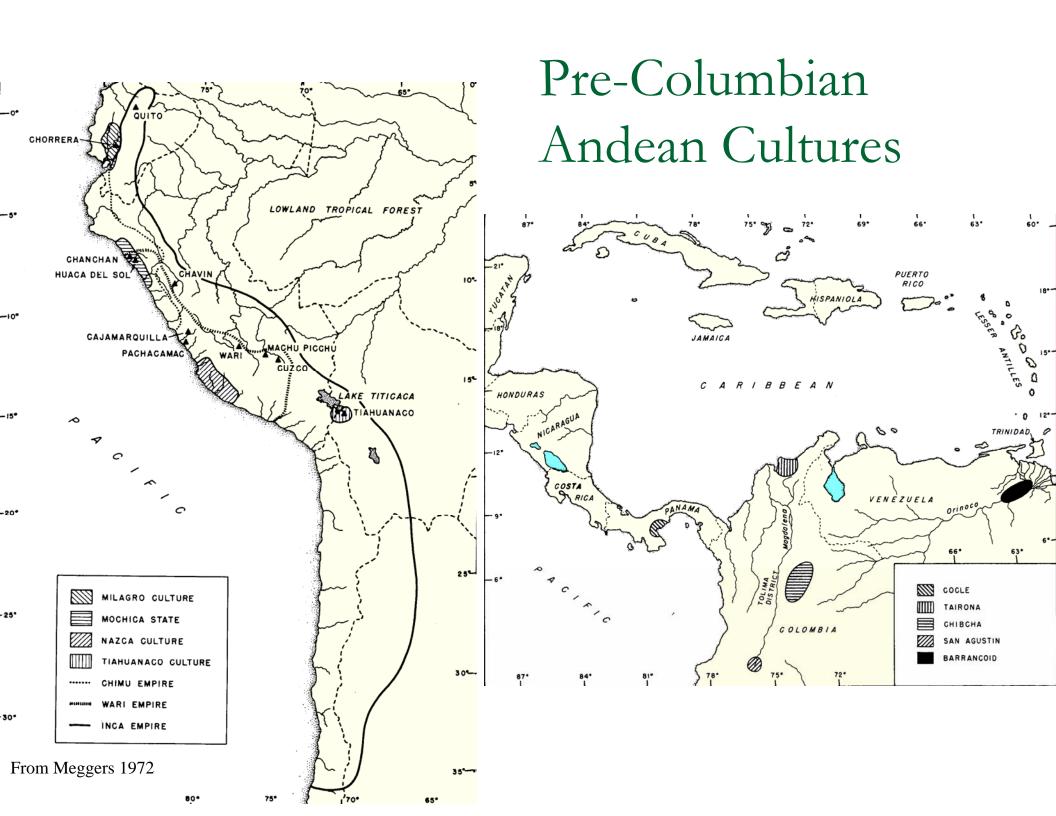




Why did the Aztecs practice human sacrifice?

- Protein deficiency due to the absence of large mammals. They only had dogs and turkeys
- Sacrifice victims corpses were distributed between the population (high class) and consumed.
- Harris 1977, mentioned a preferred recipe: a stew with peppers and tomatoes





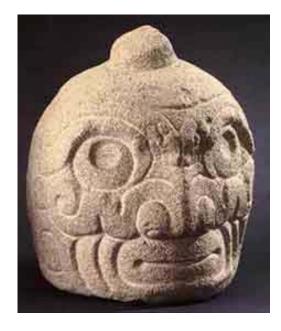


South America PreColumbian Cultures

The early Pre-Columbian cultures were concentrated in west Peru.

The earliest was the Chavin Culture (1000 BC-200 BC)

Chavin de Huántar 1000 BC-200 BC



National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Peru, Lima



Museo del Banco Central de Reserva del Perú, Lima, Peru (Cat. 1)

The Chavin culture was the mother culture of the Andes.

Typical of Chavin ceramics are flat-bottomed stirrup spout vessels, rows of recurring ornamental motifs, carved.

Gold especially had an important position, and some scholars have even said that it was the official metal of the Chavin culture

Paracas 600-100 B.C.

Textile



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Paracas Culture flourished on the south coast of Peru during 600-100 B.C.

www.corbis.com

The most important findings come from the small area of Paracas Peninsula, where thousands of gorgeous textiles are found in ancient cemeteries.

Nazca

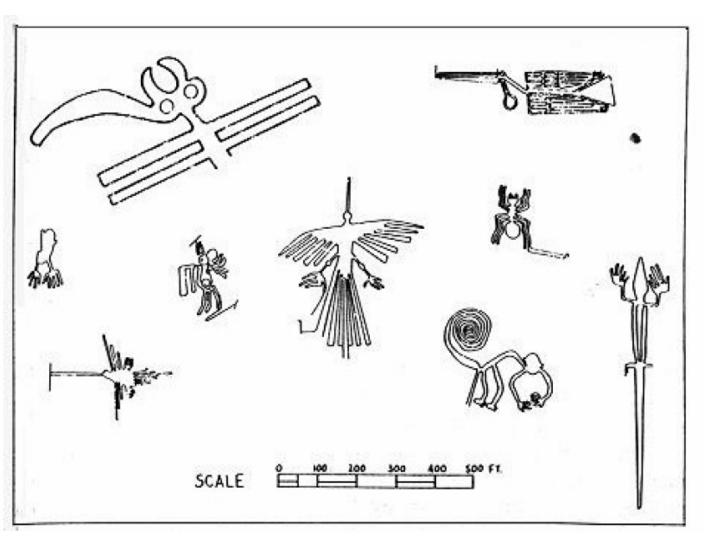
100 B.C.-A.D. 600



National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology, History of Peru, Lima

Nazca culture flourished on the southern coast of Peru during 100 B.C.-A.D. 600. Their pyramidal monuments at Cahuachi show the extensive constructions at this ceremonial center. Early Nazca culture evolved from Paracas culture Nazca art is characterized by beautiful polychrome decoration and a very fine body. Nazca potteries have very bright colors -- up to six colors on one vessel. These colors were painted before firing and this technique was used by Nazca people for the first time in Peru (Scott 1999: 52).

Nazca lines: only visible from above



Since discovery by American scientist Paul Kosok in 1939, the lines on the desert near the small town of Nazca have perplexed scholars. Originally thought to be the remains of irrigation lines beyond the verdant Nazca valley, it wasn't until they were seen from the air that the lines were recognizable as figures.

Why did the Nazca people draw these?

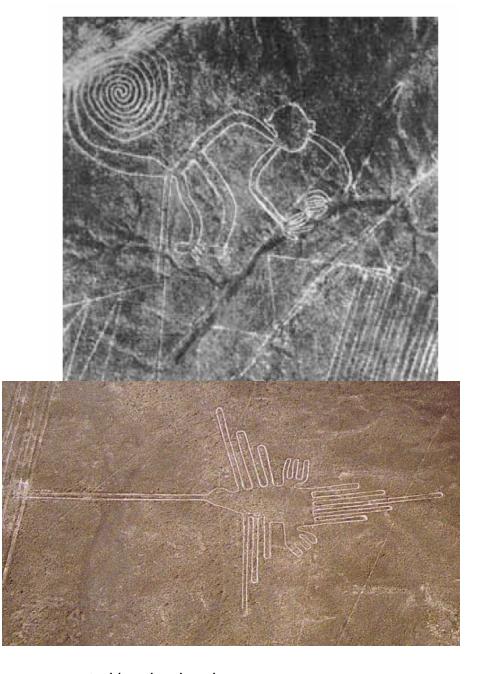
Nazca lines

The lines are a variety of geometrical figures, trapezoids, triangles and lines, plus animal and bird figures of hummingbirds, a whale, a monkey, a spider, a bird likened to a pelican, another like a condor, and one called the astronaut. They range in size up to 1000 ft (300m) across and are about 2000 years old.

The lines are thought to have been etched on the Pampa Colorada sands by three different groups: the Paracas people 900-200 BC, Nazcas 200 BC-AD 600 and settlers from Ayacucho at about 630 AD.

These lines spread for more than 800 miles (1,300 km), some of which extend 12 miles (20 km) long. Since these lines are on a flat surface and its climate is extremely dry, nearly all geoglyphs remain completely intact.





The Nasca lines were created by clearing the darkened pampa stones to either side and exposing the lighter sand underneath. (Photo courtesy of Michael J. Way. Copyright Michael J. Way)

"The Astronaut"



20 February 2004 The Panamerican Highway cuts straight through the mysterious figures and geometric shapes of the Nasca Lines near Nasca in southern Peru. The highway was built in 1937, before that section of the Lines had been discovered. The Lines are too large to be appreciated from the ground, but rather can only be seen from the air, although they were drawn in the sand before 700A.D. by the Nasca Indians, long before airplanes and hot-air balloons existed.

Credits: AP Photo/John

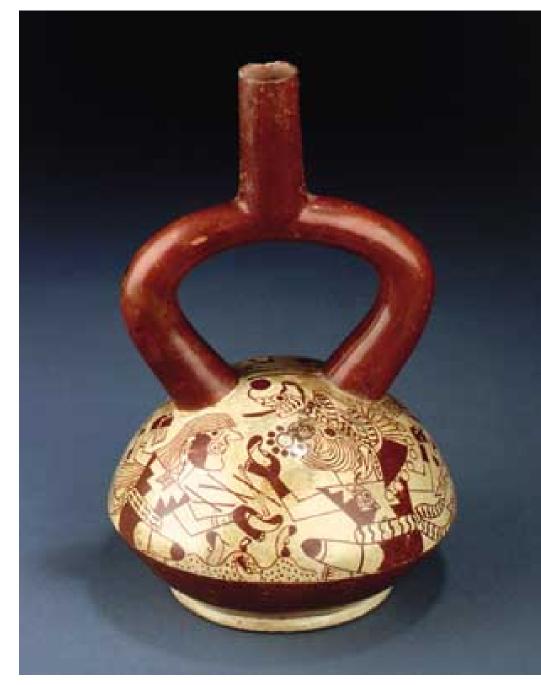
Moore

Nazca lines in danger



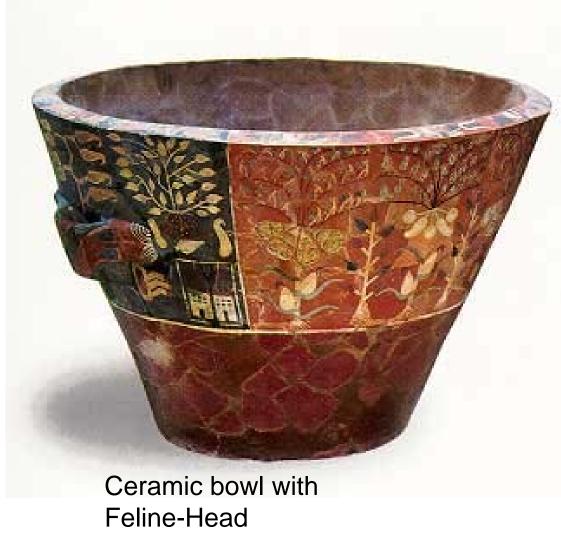
Moche A.D. 1-700

- Moche culture developed in the area of the north coast of Peru during A.D.1-700. Their art style is very descriptive.
- Moche society was hierarchical and higher ranked people, such as priests and warriors, most frequently appear on ceramics.



Tihuanaco (A.D. 400-1000)

- •Tihuanaco Empire appeared near the southern shore of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia around A.D. 400. Tihuanaco people built beautiful sunken courts, and enclosures with cut stones.
- •Their art style resembles the art of Chavin.



Ceramic bowl with Feline-Head Handles and Edible Plants

National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Peru, Lima

Chimu (A.D. 1050-1470)



Gold and Copper Repoussé Tunic for a Mummy National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Peru, Lima Stirrup Spout Bottle
Fowler Museum of Cultural History,
UCLA

- •Chimu culture appeared on the north coast of Peru.
- •Their capital was Chan Chan which was a very large metropolis consisting of ten walled quarters.
- Chimu expanded their empire by military campaigns along the northern half of Peruvian coast.
- •Chimu pottery is distinctive for its dark black glazing.



Inca

1427-1532 A.D.



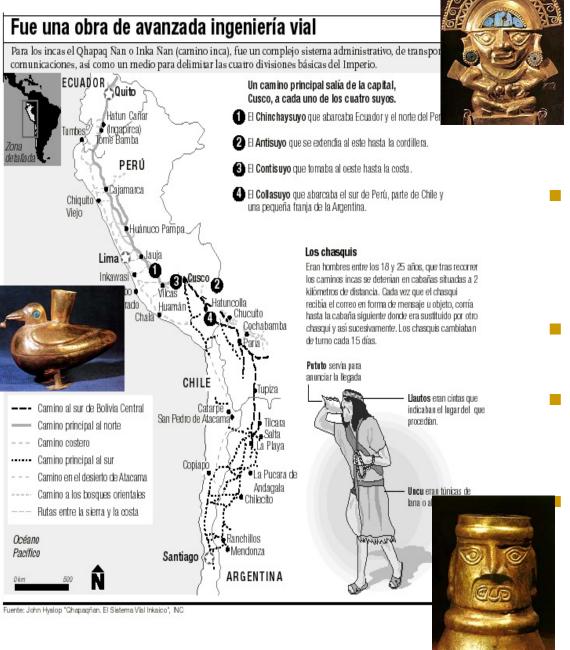
Inca was the greatest empire in the New World (about 4000 Km long). They conquered the Chimu around 1470 and other cities and the Inca empire expanded all of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, the Northern Chile, and northwestern Argentina. Their capital was Cuzco in Peru. The Inca had a highly advanced culture.

The Inca unified and maintained the vast lands by transforming other cultures into Inca culture.

Inca people produced miniature human and animal figures made of metal and stone and these figures were very common in their art.

National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology, History of Peru, Lima

Inca Empire



The Inca Empire, extended across the entire Andean region. The major Inca conquests came after 1440 AD. The kingdom was divided into administrative districts down to the local level.

The state owned the land and drafted people for work on public projects.

- The "writing" was probably in knotted strings, called quipus, on which they could record census reports and other information.
- Their fine arts included tapestries, pottery, and metalwork.
 - The Inca built roads, bridges and palaces, which were some of the best in the world at the time.

The Inca language and culture have been preserved to the present day (Quechua).